

December 6, 2005

December Sixth

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The regular December Meeting of City Council was held on the above date at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located on the Fourth Floor of the Municipal Building. The following Council Members were present: P. A. "Pete" Castiglione, Jr., E. Stokes Daniels, Jr., Mayor John C. Hamlin, T. David Luther, T. Wayne Oakes, Sherman M. Saunders, H. Phillip Smith and Vice-Mayor R. Wayne Williams, Jr. (8). Ruby B. Archie was absent (1).

Administrative Staff Members present were: City Manager Jerry L. Gwaltney, Deputy City Manager M. Lyle Lacy, III, Assistant City Manager for Utilities Joseph C. King, Finance Director Barbara A. Dameron, Budget Director Cynthia L. Thomasson, City Attorney W. Clarke Whitfield, Jr., and Clerk of the Council Annette Y. Crane, CMC.

Other Staff members present were Multi-Media Design Manager Mark Aron, Chief of Police Philip Broadfoot, Community Development Director Jerry Fischer, Planning Director Ken Gillie, Community Development Coordinator Anne Moore, Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Director Bill Sgrinia, and Deputy Public Works Director/City Engineer Kent Shelton.

Mayor Hamlin presided.

#### **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

Council Member David Luther offered the Invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Mayor Hamlin recognized Jim Daly. Mr. Daly, a native of Danville, appeared to present an original letter from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt allocating funds for the construction of the Dan River Hydro-electric Plant in Danville, Virginia. He said he came across the document a couple of months ago while vacationing in Nevada in a memorabilia store. Mr. Daly presented the historic framed letter to the City on behalf of his late father and in honor of his mother, Frances E. Daly, to Mayor Hamlin for historical keeping and preservation. Mr. Daly said the only thing he would ask in return is a written receipt for his own record keeping.

Mayor Hamlin expressed sincere appreciation to Mr. Daly for the gift to the City.

In keeping with historical events in the City and on a humorous note, Council Member Luther read an article from the *Danville Bee* dated Friday, September 11, 1931. The headline read "City Fathers

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All Hot and Bothered by Heat and Insects." The story related that City Council members were bothered during meetings by the extreme heat and flying insects. The article stated since Council Members were required to wear coats, even during the warmest weather, they were reported to be in favor of the installation of electric fans and/or bug fans in the Council Chambers.

Vice-Mayor Williams said the letter from President Roosevelt referred to the Pinnacles, which is still generating power for the City of Danville.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS**

Mayor Hamlin recognized and acknowledged the presence of approximately 50 Danville Police Officers. He called on Police Lt. Mike Mondul, President of the Danville Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). Lt. Mondul thanked Council Members and the City Administration for recognizing and acknowledging the issues and concerns that were set forth in a document prepared by members of the FOP. The document had been distributed to Council Members prior to the Meeting. Mr. Mondul said he was present to answer any questions from Council Members.

Mayor Hamlin thanked Lt. Mondul for bringing the issues before Council and said the organization's concerns would be looked at during the budget process, which begins for Council around April 1.

Council Smith felt the document contained an excellent presentation and stated he appreciated the manner in which it was presented.

Council Member Saunders thanked members of the Danville police force for the invaluable service they provide to the citizens of Danville. He said each officer placed his/her life on the line daily and thanked them for all they did. Mr. Saunders said he knew the City was listening and stated he hoped it would respond in kind.

Council Member Luther said he read everything in the document carefully and needed some clarification. Mr. Luther asked if the concerns were mainly money issues dealing with the way the officers were paid and retirement concerns. Lt. Mondul answered that the issues surrounding salary and retirement detrimentally affected morale in the department and were the main reasons many officers had left the city's employ.

#### **MINUTES**

Upon Motion by Council Member Daniels and second by Council Member Oakes, Minutes of the November 15, 2005 Council Meeting were approved as presented. Draft copies had been submitted to Council Members prior to the Meeting.

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**BUDGET ADOPTION - FY 2005-2006 - HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM GRANT**

Upon Motion by Council Member Luther and second by Council Member Castiglione, Ordinance No. 2005-11.07 presented by its First Reading on November 15, 2006 amending the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Budget Appropriation Ordinance by increasing revenue to anticipate the receipt of funds from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles 2006 Highway Safety Program Grant to the Danville Police Department was adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0  
AYE: Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Oakes, Saunders, Smith, and Williams (8)  
NAY: None (0)  
ABSENT: Archie (1).

**APPOINT HAMPTON WILKINS TO THE DANVILLE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

Dr. Williams moved adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-12.01

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING L. HAMPTON WILKINS AS A MEMBER OF THE DANVILLE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Saunders and adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0  
AYE: Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Oakes, Saunders, Smith, and Williams (8)  
NAY: None (0)  
ABSENT: Archie (1).

**APPOINT CECIL BRIDGEMORTH TO COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL**

Dr. Williams moved adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-12.02

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING CECIL BRIDGEMORTH AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Saunders and adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0  
AYE: Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Oakes, Saunders, Smith, and Williams (8)  
NAY: None (0)  
ABSENT: Archie (1).

**APPOINT LAWRENCE CAMPBELL TO COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL**

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Dr. Williams moved adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-12.03

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING LAWRENCE G. CAMPBELL, JR. AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Saunders and adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0  
AYE: Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Oakes, Saunders, Smith, and Williams (8)  
NAY: None (0)  
ABSENT: Archie (1).

**REAPPOINT JAMES MOTLEY TO EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

Dr. Williams moved adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-12.04

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JAMES A. MOTLEY AS A MEMBER OF THE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Saunders and adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0  
AYE: Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Oakes, Saunders, Smith, and Williams (8)  
NAY: None (0)  
ABSENT: Archie (1).

**REAPPOINT LINWOOD WRIGHT TO EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

Dr. Williams moved adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-12.05

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING E. LINWOOD WRIGHT, III AS A MEMBER OF THE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Saunders and adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0  
AYE: Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Oakes, Saunders, Smith, and Williams (8)  
NAY: None (0)  
ABSENT: Archie (1).

**REAPPOINT HAMPTON WILKINS TO FAIR HOUSING BOARD**

Dr. Williams moved adoption of a Resolution entitled:

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RESOLUTION NO. 2005-12.06

A RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING L. HAMPTON WILKINS AS A MEMBER OF THE FAIR HOUSING BOARD.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Saunders and adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0  
AYE: Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Oakes, Saunders, Smith, and Williams (8)  
NAY: None (0)  
ABSENT: Archie (1).

**APPOINT WENDI GOODS TO FAIR HOUSING BOARD**

Dr. Williams moved adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-12.07

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING WENDI S. GOODS AS A MEMBER OF THE FAIR HOUSING BOARD.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Saunders and adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0  
AYE: Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Oakes, Saunders, Smith, and Williams (8)  
NAY: None (0)  
ABSENT: Archie (1).

**APPOINT CONSTANCE FLETCHER TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Dr. Williams moved adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-12.08

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING CONSTANCE N. FLETCHER AS A MEMBER OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Saunders and adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0  
AYE: Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Oakes, Saunders, Smith, and Williams (8)  
NAY: None (0)  
ABSENT: Archie (1).

**PUBLIC HEARING - SUBMIT ENTERPRISE ZONE AMENDMENT APPLICATION**

Mayor Hamlin opened the floor for a Public Hearing to consider a proposal to authorize the City Manager to submit an application

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to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development to amend the boundaries of the City's Enterprise Zone #1. Notice of the Public Hearing had been duly published in the Danville Register and Bee on November 22 and 29, 2005. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Council Member Daniels moved adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-12.09

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AN ENTERPRISE ZONE AMENDMENT APPLICATION FOR THE CITY ENTERPRISE ZONE.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Saunders and adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0  
AYE: Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Oakes, Saunders, Smith, and Williams (8)  
NAY: None (0)  
ABSENT: Archie (1).

**PUBLIC HEARING - BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP GRANT APPLICATION**

Mayor Hamlin opened the floor for a Public Hearing to consider a proposal to authorize the City Manager to submit an application to the Environmental Protection Agency for a Brownfields Grant Award. Notice of the Public Hearing had been duly published in the Danville Register and Bee on November 22 and 29, 2005. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Council Member Castiglione moved adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-12.10

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT A BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP GRANT APPLICATION TO THE U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA).

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Smith and adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0  
AYE: Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Oakes, Saunders, Smith, and Williams (8)  
NAY: None (0)  
ABSENT: Archie (1).

**PUBLIC HEARING - AMEND 2020 LAND USE MAP-LOT 12 - WESTOVER DRIVE**

Mayor Hamlin opened the floor for a Public Hearing to consider amending the Year 2020 Land Use Map on approximately .253 acres

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(Lot 12) on Westover Drive. Notice of the Public Hearing had been duly published in the Danville Register and Bee on November 22 and 29, 2005. Winn Bishop, representing the applicant, Piedmont Place, appeared to answer questions from Council Members and citizens.

No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Council Member Daniels moved adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2005-12.01

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE YEAR 2020 LAND USE MAP FROM URBAN SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL TO COMMUNITY SERVICE AND REZONING FROM OT-R OLD TOWN RESIDENTIAL TO PS-C PLANNED SHOPPING CENTER COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, APPROXIMATELY .253 ACRES (LOT 12) ON WESTOVER DRIVE.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Oakes and adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0  
AYE: Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Oakes, Saunders, Smith, and Williams (8)  
NAY: None (0)  
ABSENT: Archie (1).

**PUBLIC HEARING - AMEND 2020 LAND USE MAP-LOT 13 - WESTOVER DRIVE**

Mayor Hamlin opened the floor for a Public Hearing to consider amending the Year 2020 Land Use Map on approximately .227 acres (Lot 13) on Westover Drive. Notice of the Public Hearing had been duly published in the Danville Register and Bee on November 22 and 29, 2005. Winn Bishop, representing the applicant, Piedmont Place, appeared to answer questions from Council Members and citizens.

No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Vice-Mayor Williams moved adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2005-12.02

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE YEAR 2020 LAND USE MAP FROM URBAN SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL TO COMMUNITY SERVICE AND REZONING FROM OT-R OLD TOWN RESIDENTIAL TO PS-C PLANNED SHOPPING CENTER COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, APPROXIMATELY .227 ACRES (LOT 13) ON WESTOVER DRIVE.

Council Member Daniels seconded the Motion.

Council Member Smith commented that he agreed with one of the respondents in that they both felt the properties located on the

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Southside of Westover Drive between Lot 13 and Jerry Drive should be rezoned to equal status to the rezoning being proposed. Mr. Smith said the area had been targeted for development. He said that if he were an adjacent property owner, he would feel some concern as to whether or not his property would be rezoned as well should he seek to do so.

The Ordinance was adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0  
AYE: Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Oakes, Saunders,  
Smith, and Williams (8)  
NAY: None (0)  
ABSENT: Archie (1).

**PUBLIC HEARING-AMEND 2020 LAND USE MAP-1297 SOUTH BOSTON ROAD**

Mayor Hamlin opened the floor for a Public Hearing to consider amending the Year 2020 Land Use Map and rezone property from Neighborhood Commercial to "Conditional" Highway Retail Commercial located at 1297 South Boston Road. Notice of the Public Hearing had been duly published in the Danville Register and Bee on November 22 and 29, 2005. Applicant John Gilbert appeared to answer questions from Council Members and citizens.

Council Member Saunders called attention to a communication from Bermuda Road resident Debbie Thomas that had been distributed to each Council Member prior to the Meeting. In the communication, Ms. Thomas expressed opposition to the rezoning request stating the change would have a snowball effect and it would not be long before every lot near her would be Highway Retail Commercial (HR-C). Ms. Thomas stated she felt the change would create traffic problems and disrupt the neighborhood. She further stated the matter was addressed last year when City Council made a major overhaul of the Zoning Code and she saw no need to revisit the issue.

Mr. Saunders asked that Ms. Thomas' comments be considered during the discussion on the issue.

Mr. Saunders recalled that Ms. Thomas had attended several of the public hearings during the process of creating a new zoning code and had expressed some of the same concerns at that time.

No one further desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Council Member Oakes moved adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2005-12.03

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE YEAR 2020 LAND USE MAP FROM SUBURBAN SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL TO COMMUNITY SERVICE AND TO REZONE FROM N-C NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO "CONDITIONAL" HR-C HIGHWAY RETAIL DISTRICT, 1297 SOUTH BOSTON ROAD.



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Council Member Luther seconded the Motion.

Council Member Daniels said it was more than a year ago when the new zoning ordinance was adopted. He felt Ms. Thomas had a legitimate concern. He felt the neighbors needed to know the City is honoring the zoning ordinance that was adopted in 2004.

Planning Director Ken Gillie said the Planning Commission felt it was protecting the rights of the property owners by reducing the number of uses by seven, which limits what could go on the property in question.

In response to Council Member Oakes, Mr. Gillie said the request for rezoning was prompted by the requirements set forth by the Federal Government in the Airport Overlay Zone (AOZ). Any changes require notification to the FAA and the submission of a 7460 Form, which is a Notice of Intent to Construct. Mr. Gilbert is seeking to move his business out of the AOZ.

Council Member Smith Asked about proper screening around the proposed business site. Mr. Gillie responded the business owner is required by code to provide such screening. Mr. Smith said he agreed with Council Member Daniels comments.

Vice-Mayor Williams said in 2004 there were very good discussions with the residents of the area in question and felt the plan as adopted was satisfactory to the residents.

The Ordinance **FAILED** by the following vote:

VOTE: 4-4  
AYE: Castiglione, Hamlin, Luther, and Oakes (4)  
NAY: Daniels, Saunders, Smith, and Williams (4)  
ABSENT: Archie (1).

#### **BUDGET AMENDMENT - FY 2005-2006 - RIVERSIDE DRIVE TRAIL PHASE I**

Upon Motion by Vice-Mayor Williams and second by Council Member Daniels, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2005-12.04

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY INCREASING ANTICIPATED REVENUES TO PROVIDE FOR A GRANT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RIVERSIDE DRIVE TRAIL PHASE I IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000, AND LOCAL IN-KIND SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000 FOR A TOTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$125,000

was presented by its First Reading, as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

#### **PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT REVISIONS**

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Council Member Smith moved adoption of an ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2005-12.05

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2004-2005 CHANGES TO THE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT OF 1998.

Council Member Daniels seconded the Motion.

Mr. Daniels asked Deputy City Manager Lacy to explain what these revisions would mean to taxpayers. Mr. Lacy offered the following:

Originally, the Personal Property Tax Relief Act (PPTRA) was a vehicle-based entitlement program whereby the state was obligated to provide annual tax relief to owners of all personal use vehicles. The relief was computed on the first \$20,000 of assessed vehicle value. Under this program, as the number and value compromising the "fleet" in each county, city and town grew, so did the state's annual obligation. Changes to PPTRA made by SB 5005 establish a fixed, annual block grant to localities, the proceeds of which must be used to provide tax relief to the owners of qualifying vehicles. The state's obligation is capped and made certain; localities are provided greater flexibility in determining how relief is to be distributed.

The purpose of SB 5005 was to cut off growth in the state expenditure for personal property tax relief. This was accomplished by establishing a fixed annual state expenditure for relief -- \$950 million, the amount estimated to be necessary to produce relief at a 70 percent reimbursement rate under the old PPTRA in tax year 2006. Each locality's "slice" is determined by totaling the locality's PPTRA reimbursements for the state tax year 2004 that are collected through December 31, 2005 and calculating their percentage of all PPTRA reimbursements made throughout the state for tax year 2004. The locality's relief for tax year 2006 and all subsequent years is computed by applying this distribution percentage to the fixed statewide amount of \$950 million.

Mr. Lacy advised there were two basic methods allowed for localities to apportion relief to individual taxpayers. The first is the "reduced rate" method. This method requires each locality to set its general PPT rate and determine the tax yield from taxing the fleet of qualifying vehicles. Distribution of the state-provided relief is provided by a reduced rate applicable to qualifying vehicles. The difference between the general rate and the reduce rate would approximate the amount of state relief.

The second method is the "specific relief" method. Instead of computing and displaying "reduced rates" on the tax bill every year, localities may apply the available state relief on a per-vehicle basis and show the specific dollar amount of the relief for each vehicle on the face of the tax bill, together with a

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statement indicating that the source of the relief is the state PPTRA program. There are three distinct advantages to the "specific rate" method. First, programming changes necessary to transition from the "old" to the "new" PPTRA programs can be simplified. Localities using this method will calculate a percentage of relief to apply to each vehicle, a process that is similar to the process used to calculate the "old" PPTRA. and thus easier to implement. Second, taxpayers are accustomed to seeing PPTRA relief displayed in this manner and will see a true "price tag" for the relief they receive. This is easier to understand than a "unit price". Finally, the specific relief approach eliminates the need to formally increase the "reduced rate" each year in order to accommodate fleet value growth over time.

In addition to selecting a method for distributing relief, localities are afforded other flexibilities in determining how to administer this program. Under the old PPTRA, vehicles valued at or under \$1,000 were exempted from taxation. Under the new PPTRA, there are no special provisions for low-value vehicles. Unless the locality adopts special provisions, low-value vehicles will return to the active tax rolls beginning in tax year 2006.

Mr. Lacy stated the City has chosen to allocate relief of 100% for each qualifying vehicle with an assessed value of \$1,000 or less.

The new PPTRA provides localities virtually unlimited flexibility in determining the precise formula for distributing relief to owners of qualifying vehicles. The only statutory requirement is that relief be provided to owners of vehicles valued at \$20,000 and under.

Mr. Lacy advised the Ordinance before Council for consideration treats all vehicles valued between \$1,000 and \$20,000 the same.

SB 5005 requires that the reduced rate or relief percentage "approximately" use the fixed state relief provided. There is no specific requirement to "carry forward" unused sums, nor is there any mechanism "recapturing" any shortfall experienced by the locality when relief is established at too generous a level. In order to assure taxpayers that state relief dollars will be spent solely for tax relief, it is advisable for localities to consider carrying forward any unused amounts into a subsequent year and using them to augment the fixed amount of state relief in the subsequent period.

The Ordinance was adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0  
AYE: Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Oakes, Saunders,  
Smith, and Williams (8)  
NAY: None (0)  
ABSENT: Archie (1).

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**ACCELERATION OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROBERTSON BRIDGE REPLACEMENT**

Council Member Daniels moved adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-12.11

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO REQUEST THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ACCELERATE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROBERTSON BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT BY SELLING MUNICIPAL BONDS TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE CONSTRUCTION.

Council Member Oakes seconded the Motion.

Vice-Mayor Williams said the City needed to do something because traffic is increasing on the bridge and in the area in general. He said it could be 20+ years if the City waited for VDOT to begin construction.

Council Member Smith commended City Manager Gwaltney and the administration for taking the necessary steps to get the bridge project moving forward. He said he appreciated the administration for coming up with a solution to getting what the City needed instead of waiting on the state and federal governments.

The Resolution was adopted by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0  
AYE: Castiglione, Daniels, Hamlin, Luther, Oakes, Saunders, Smith, and Williams (8)  
NAY: None (0)  
ABSENT: Archie (1).

**COMMUNICATIONS**

City Manager Gwaltney called attention to the October 2005 Monthly Financial Report. Mr. Gwaltney commended the Finance Department for working diligently each month to provide this information for Council Members.

Mr. Gwaltney called attention to a communication from Moody's Investors Service that affirmed the City's A3 Bond Rating. Mr. Gwaltney explained that with the challenges faced in Danville recently, Moody's had reported the City had been managed very well. Mr. Gwaltney felt the rating spoke highly of City Council and the City staff's management practices.

Mr. Gwaltney reported he and several City staff members had traveled to New York City last week to meet with Moody's. He advised a copy of the presentation had been placed at the desk of each Council Member for review. Mr. Gwaltney commended Finance Director Barbara Dameron, Budget Director Cynthia Thomasson, and Multi-Media Design Manager Mark Aron for their contributions to the bond presentation.

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There were no communications from the Deputy City Manager, City Attorney, and City Clerk.

**ROLL CALL**

All Council Members wished a speedy recovery for Council Member Archie, who been hospitalized recently and unable to attend the Council Meeting.

Council Member Castiglione requested the PowerPoint presentation "Community Investment" be placed on CityTV-20 so the citizens of Danville could be made aware of all the City had accomplished.

Council Member Daniels requested the City Manager to take a look at the possibility of placing reflectors in the center lines of some city streets, especially Piney Forest Road. Mr. Daniels reported traveling along Piney Forest at night during a recent rainfall and said the glare made it difficult to see the lines. Mr. Gwaltney agreed to look into the matter.

Mayor Hamlin asked City Manager Gwaltney to thank all city staff involved in this past Sunday's Christmas parade. He said there was great participation and the parade attendance continued to grow each year.

Council Member Luther, commenting on Mr. Saunders' remarks during last month's roll call, said the city's young people needed to really consider the importance of a good education and how dangerous drugs were. Mr. Luther felt these were two of the most important messages that needed to be stressed to the city's young people. He commended and thanked Mr. Saunders' for those remarks.

Council Member Oakes thanked the city's police officers for bringing their concerns before Council this evening.

Council Member Saunders thanked the Riverview Rotary Club for the outstanding Christmas Parade held in downtown Danville this past Sunday.

Vice-Mayor Williams expressed appreciation to the City's Department Heads for the excellent Capital Improvements Plan that was reviewed at a joint work session on November 16.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:11 P.M.

CLERK

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MAYOR

**Clerk's Note:** A copy of the certification by General Registrar Peggy Petty of the drawing held on November 23, 2005 to determine

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the identity of the third School Board seat to be selected by popular election on May 2, 2006 is attached to and made a part of these Minutes indicating Secretary of the Electoral Board Sylvesta Jennings drew the name of Alonzo L. Jones.